

Library Research And Demonstrations--Discretionary Grants and Contracts (CFDA No. 84.039)

I. Legislation

The Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title II-B (Section 223) (20 U.S.C. 1021, 1022, and 1033) (expires September 30, 1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1967	\$3,550,000	1992	\$ 325,000
1970	2,171,000	1993	2,802,000
1975	1,000,000	1994	2,802,000
1980	1,000,000	1994	2,802,000
1985	1,000,000	1995	6,500,000
1990	285,000	1996	3,000,000
1991	325,000		

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The Library Research and Demonstrations Program supports research and development relating to:

- The improvement of libraries;
- Education in library and information science;
- The enhancement of library services through effective and efficient use of new technologies; and
- The dissemination of information derived from such projects.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

Discretionary grants and contracts can be awarded to institutions of higher education and other public or private agencies, institutions, and organizations. In FY 1995, the appropriations bill specified that two additional awards, totaling \$2.5 million each, be made under the Statewide Multitype Library Network and Database competition conducted in FY 1994, and that \$1.5 million be used for a demonstration project to make federal information and other databases available for public use by connecting a multistate consortium of public and private colleges and universities to a public library and a historic library.

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In FY 1996, the appropriations bill directed that \$1 million be used to continue the existing demonstration project making information available for public use by connecting the Internet to a multistate consortium; that \$1 million be awarded to the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation to document and archive Holocaust survivors' testimony; and that \$1 million be awarded to the National Museum of Women in the Arts for activities associated with the archiving of works by women artists.

Until FY 1993, projects under this program were small (under \$60,000) and field-initiated, although more substantial projects, such as work leading to the establishment of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a major national bibliographic referral center, was undertaken. Beginning in FY 1993 and continuing through FY 1996, projects were for larger sums (\$1 to \$2.5 million) and specified for the purposes described above.

Strategic Initiatives

- Provide technical assistance to grantees and potential grantees;
- Clarify policies, procedures, and evaluation standards for research and demonstration applications;
- Redesign the annual performance report;
- Present information about projects, especially project findings, at library and information science conferences or workshops; and
- Develop and publish written information about projects, especially project findings.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

With the FY 1995 grants awarded to the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts to develop the InfoMine network and to the State Library of Iowa, in partnership with Iowa State University of Science and Technology, to develop the SILO network, the number of Statewide Multitype Library Network and Database projects reached four. Each project supports a demonstration of online and dial-in access to a statewide multitype library database through a statewide fiber optic network connecting libraries in every municipality.

The FY 1995 award for a demonstration project to make federal information and other databases available for public use by connecting a multistate consortium of public and private colleges and universities to a public library and a historic library went to Portland State University's PORTALS consortium, which includes 14 public and private academic institutions, the Multnomah County Library, and the Oregon Historical Society, working cooperatively to expand and enrich the information resources needed by the people of the Portland metropolitan area, including Clark County in the state of Washington. The FY 1996, supplemental continues the demonstration by establishing an electronic document delivery network and developing historical databases.

The other two FY 1996 awards (Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and the National Museum of Women in the Arts) are creating unique electronic databases that will be made available through the Internet to an international audience of scholars, researchers, students, and the general public.

Since FY 1994, Library Programs staff have been meeting at national library conferences with the research and demonstration grantees funded in FY 1993, FY 1994, and FY 1995, to discuss progress of projects, dissemination opportunities, and project evaluation and reporting. In FY 1995 and FY 1996 Library Programs staff held a separate meeting with grantees, focusing on project evaluation. The first meeting was held in Denver, Colorado; the second, in Portland, Oregon. As a result of these meetings, Library Programs staff and the grantees planned a presentation for the 1996 Library Information Technology Association national conference, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Library Programs staff also reported on all research and demonstration funded projects in the 1995 and 1996 editions of the Bowker Annual: Library and Book Trade Almanac.

IV. Planned Studies

None.

V. Sources of Information

Program files.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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